

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1877.] [CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJÁB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 1st December, 1877.

(POLITICAL.)

GENERAL.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 27th November says that

Circulation,
450 copies.

the Government has called for a report
of Christians living in Northern India
who belong to the English Church.

The withdrawal of the State aid from the Indian Ecclesiastical Department.
The report will be submitted by the India Office to Parliament. Sometime ago the question of withdrawing State aid from the Churches in India engaged the attention of Parliament, but was shelved. Perhaps the same question will be again brought before Parliament, and the report in question is called for to help its decision. It will be an act of great justice on the part of Parliament to abolish the State Church in India.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 27th November, after referring to the article published by the *Mashír-i-Qaisar* of the 18th November, com-

Circulation,
450 copies.

The Political Agents of Native States and bribery.

plaining of the luxurious habits of a

Political Agent in some Rajputana State (*vide* the *Selections* for the week ending the 24th November, 1877, page 809), says that the complaint is very likely a true one. Some years ago we had occasion to see the tents and camp equipages of a Political Agent. They were in no way inferior to those of any Native Chief. The Political Agents in Native States live like the Governor-General, and do not think it wrong to accept valuable presents. A respectable friend of ours states that he once found a Political Agent at Deoli extremely merry on Christmas-day on account of the bagfulls of rupees which he received from the Native Chief and the officers of the State, along with presents of fruits and sweatmeats commonly called the *dáli*. In fact the income of dishonest Political Agents exceeds even that of the Governor-General. A Political Agent can get a large amount of money by threatening the Native Chief once a year. The Government of India should exercise a strict watch over Political Agents. If those European Political Agents who are dishonest were superseded by Natives of proved ability and honesty, great benefit would accrue from the change both to the Government and Native States.

Circnlation,
175 copies.

The *Vrita Dáhrá* of the 26th November, referring to the growing coldness between the Government of India and Sir Salar Jang, urges that the Viceroy and Sir Salar Jang should hold a personal conference and effect a reconciliation between themselves.

K A B U L.

Circnlation,
700 copies

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 30th November says that the late Turkish Embassy to Kabul will not be barren of consequences. Some of our contemporaries have represented it to be a complete failure, but we cannot endorse their views. The Amir has sent his Agent to Constantinople with the Turkish Envoy. If the mission of Sayyid Ahmad Khalousi Effandi had failed

to produce any favourable impression on his mind, he would have never deputed his agent to the Sultan of Turkey. If a friendly alliance existed between him and the Russian power, he would never commit himself to this step, which cannot but raise suspicions in the mind of the latter. The despatch of the Kabul Envoy to Constantinople is calculated to pave the way for a friendly alliance between the Amir and the Porte. The residence of the Kabul Envoy at the Turkish capital is sure to place him in possession of full information regarding the intrigues of Russia and the friendly relations existing between Turkey and England. All Asiatic nations are notoriously ignorant of the state of affairs in Europe, but of them the Afghans are beyond dispute the worst informed. There are several reasons why the Musalmans of India sympathise with the Turks. Both nations profess the same religion. The Sultan of Turkey is the protector and guardian of the holy sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina. And above all England is a great friend and ally of Turkey. In fact the two powers are closely bound together by an identity of interests. It will be a matter of great happiness to the Musalmans of India if a friendly alliance is made between England, Turkey, and Afghanistan. Such an alliance will secure Kabul against Russian intrigues, and also induce the Amir to aid the Porte in the present crisis in the best way he can. India, being under the strong rule of the English, has little to fear from the enmity of the Afghans. However, the restoration of friendship between the Government of India and Kabul, will altogether free us from any apprehensions of trouble and injury from the frontier.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 24th November states, on the

The late visit of the Commissioner of Umbala to Patiala to confer a Banner, &c., upon the Maharaja, authority of its Umbala correspondent, that the late visit of the Commissioner of Umbala to Patiala, for the purpose of conferring the Banner, &c., upon the

Circulation,
450 copies.

Maharaja, cost that State five lakhs of rupees. No less than Rs. 50,000 were paid to the *khansamah* who supplied food, and Rs. 40,000 worth of spirituous liquors were purchased. The sum of five lakhs of rupees is not an insignificant one. It is perhaps equal to one-third of the total annual income of the State. If the visit of the Commissioner has cost the State five lakhs of rupees, that of the Lieutenant-Governor may cost fifteen lakhs, and that of the Governor-General fifty lakhs. We appeal to Lord Lytton to institute a special enquiry into this act of extravagance on the part of the Council of Regency of Patiala. In fact a law should be enacted to make Native States responsible for their extravagance to the Government of India on an appeal being made by their subjects.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation,
200 copies.

The Hindus of the
North-Western Provinces and the public service.

The *Hindi Pradip* of the 1st December attempts to prove by statistical evidence that in the matter of public service the Musalmans of the North-Western Provinces are much better off than their Hindu brethren. Somehow or other our European officers, who hold the reins of the Government, have come to the belief that the Hindus of these provinces derive greater benefit from the public service than any other class of the community. But their belief is wholly gratuitous. Previous to our adducing the statistical evidence in support of our argument we will just try to show that the Hindus have better claims upon the Government than the Muhammadans. The Hindus pay by far the greater portion of the land revenue. Their ability and the progress of learning among them may be judged from the fact that colleges in these provinces turn out fifteen or twenty Hindu graduates every year. As regards their loyalty, the events of 1857 clearly show that the Hindu chiefs and the people rendered more aid to the Government than any other class of the community. According to the Census

Report of 1872 the Hindu population of the North-Western Provinces is 26,569,068, and the Muhammadan population 4,189,348. If we confine our calculations to these figures alone, the proportion of Muhammadan and Hindu officers in the public service should be four to twenty-five. But if the superiority of Hindus over Musalmans in ability and learning be also taken into account, the above proportion may be reasonably increased to one to twenty-five, or at least one to twenty. But what does our oracle of the official Civil List tell us? We have compiled the following statement from the Quarterly Civil List for the North-Western Provinces excluding Oudh :—

Office.		Number of Hindu incumbents.	Number of Mu-salman incum-bents.
Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Commissioners.			
Tahsildars	...	88	91
Subordinate Judges	...	7	12
Munsifs	...	33	38
POLICE.			
Superintendent	...	0	1
Assistant Superintendents	...	0	2
Inspectors	...	55	59
Total	...	218	233

Hence it is evident that there are 218 Hindus against 233 Musalman officers in the public service. The number of Hindu officers comes down to 200 if we exclude the Bengalis. We have also omitted from our calculations the Forest and Customs Departments. There is a Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, and a Muhammadan Patrol of Customs, but not a single Hindu holds a high office in either of those departments. The average proportion of Musalman and Hindu officers is seven to six, while it ought to have been

that of one to twenty or at all events of four to twenty-five. In the face of these stubborn facts it is really amusing to find high European officers laboring under the misapprehension that the Musalmans of these provinces are much worse off than the Hindus in regard to the public service, and that the condition of the former is really pitiable. The constant agitation which the Musalmans have kept up for some years past has prejudiced the Government in their favor, and induced it to better their supposed lamentable condition. The Hindus have hitherto maintained reticence and refrained from ventilating their grievances. But we hope that Sir George Couper will soon take their hard case into his favourable consideration as soon as this fact is once prominently brought to his notice.

The same paper argues that an acquaintance with the law on the part of the people is of great use to them, inasmuch as it enables them to know what their rights are, and to know whether any officer acts in accordance with the law or not. But at present ignorance about the law on the part of the people is to be attributed to the fact that the Acts and Regulations of the Government are now published in English, and are not translated into Hindi but Urdu, in which the element of Persian and Arabic words prevails, and which is also a foreign language to the masses. The Urdu translations cost the Government a great deal of money. But they are of no use whatever to the people. They benefit only the *vakils*, *mukhtars*, and the *amla* who look to their own interests and not to the welfare of the country. Act XVIII of 1871, namely, the North-Western Provinces' Local Rates Act, has been in force for the last seven years, but still the landlords and cultivators are ignorant of its provisions. It should have been translated into easy Hindi, and copies of the translation should have been distributed among the peasantry. The proceeds of the rates levied under this Act are to be laid out in works of general provincial utility, enumerated in section

The advantages of the acquaintance of the people with the law.

ten of the said Act. The roads frequented by Europeans are always kept in good repair, but those frequented by Natives alone are completely neglected. As, for instance, in Allahabad *Shivakotí*, a sacred place of the Hindus, is situated about a quarter of a mile distant from the nearest *pucka* road. That place is much frequented by Hindus in the rainy season. But when there has been even a slight shower of rain, it becomes very difficult for the visitors to walk, ride, or drive even that short distance. If a Church were situated at *Shivakotí*, a *pucka* road would have been at once constructed, watered every day, and maintained in excellent condition. The strength of the rural police has been greatly reduced. Formerly there were two or three chaukidars in each large village, but the number has been lately reduced to one. One man cannot be expected to properly watch a large village. The village schools, too, are in a very bad state. None have any able teachers attached to them.

A correspondent of the *Benares Akhbár* of the 21st November, writing from Agra, says that there has been a total failure of the *kharif* crops in the Agra district.

The agricultural classes managed to tide over the time of distress by selling their cattle and other property. They have had to borrow from the money-lenders to sow the *rabi* harvest. Still the collector has ordered the tahsildars to realise the land revenue from the zamindars. This order is necessarily a source of great misery to the zamindars. The tahsildars have told the zamindars that their estates will not be sold in payment of the revenue, nor will any punishment be inflicted upon them, but that they will be subjected to dishonour in case of non-payment. Is it just to treat the zamindars in this way who pay no less than five crores of rupees a year to the Government? The revenue instalments for the *kharif* amount only to six annas in the rupee. The Government should have remitted half of the

Circulation,
58 copies.

revenue due for the *kharif*, and recovered the other half by instalments in two years. This arrangement would not press hard upon the landlord, nor would the Government suffer any great loss. The same must be the state of things in other districts also. As soon as the Maharaja of Bharatpur saw zamindars and peasants desert their homes owing to high prices, he interfered and fixed the price of wheat at sixteen *sirs* the rupee, and of gram at twenty *sirs* the rupee. It is also rumored that the State will give seed grain to the peasants.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The *Mufid-i-Am* of the 20th November says that the need of keeping a Government has enacted laws, rules, control over prices. and regulations for regulating all matters which concern the welfare of the people. But the Government keeps no control over the grain market, and has left the people to the tender mercies of interested grain dealers. The prices have already considerably risen, and if no check is exercised there is no knowing where they will stop.

EDUCATION.

Circulation,
450 copies.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 24th November says that Nawab Fazl Ali Khan Aitmad-ud-daula bequeathed an endowment of one lakh and seventy thousand rupees, yielding a monthly income of Rs. 700. According to his Will the income was to be expended on the education of the Shia sect. But the money was devoted by the Government to the support of the old Delhi college where all classes of the community received education. In 1872 the leaders of the Shia community drew the attention of the late Lord Mayo to the Will of the donor, and requested that at least Rs. 250 a month should be allotted for the instruction of the Shia children. His Lordship granted their just request. However, the Director of Public Instruction of the Panjab cunningly managed to evade the orders of the Government, and established an Anglo-Oriental

School at Delhi out of the income of the endowment in question. The influential men of the Shia community have now memorialised the Panjab Government requesting that Rs. 250 should be assigned to the education of Shia children in accordance with the orders of Lord Mayo, and that the balance Rs. 450 may be appropriated to the Panjab University funds. We endorse the views of the memorialists, and see no reason why the endowment should be left at the absolute disposal of the Director of Public Instruction.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A correspondent of the *Benares Akhbár* of the 21st November

Circulation,
58 copies.

The last Batesar Fair.

complains that at the last Batesar fair a tax was levied upon all traders,

shopkeepers, and those men who brought camels, horses, and cattle for sale. It is the first time that such a tax has been levied at the fair. It pressed very heavily upon those poor men who went to the fair to dispose of their cattle. The Government also took a fourth part of the offerings at the temple of Shiva. The writer went to the fair to buy some horses. He had currency notes of the Allahabad circle with him. But he could not buy any horses, as the treasury at the fair would not cash the notes. If the treasuries at fairs are not expected to cash currency notes, the Government should always give previous notice to the public to that effect. At the Jumna bridge, situated between Betesar and Shikohabad, the toll-collectors exacted double and treble the fixed rates of toll from the ignorant people. The writer is afraid that these abuses will injuriously affect the attendance at the fair in future.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 27th November says that a

Circulation,
450 copies.

The illegal use of a service stamp.

gentleman has sent to its press a private communication under an official cover. Service stamps were affixed to the cover, and

it was franked by the head-clerk. The editor warns him not to repeat the offence.

Circulation,
137 copies.

The demolition of a Muhammadan Mosque situated near the Lucknow railway station.

A correspondent of the *Akhyár-ul-Akhbár* of the 21st November complains of the demolition of a mosque situated near the Lucknow railway station by the Agent of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.

Sometime ago a Musalman jamadar of the railway obtained the permission of the municipal committee to build a masjid on a small piece of nazul land lying near the railway station. Accordingly he enclosed the site with walls, and consecrated the building as a mosque for the convenience of the Muhammadan servants of the railway and passengers. But, in the beginning of October last, the Agent of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway ordered the mosque to be demolished.

(833)

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	Locality.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.	CIRCULATION.
1	<i>Agra Akhbár</i> Agra	... Urdú	... Weekly	Novr. 21st & 28th, 1877.	327 copies (including 50 copies taken by Govt.) 80 copies.
2	<i>Akhbár-i-Alam</i> Meerut	... Ditto	... Ditto	Novr. 3rd & 24th, 1877.	137 " 120 " 343 copies (including 94 copies taken by Govt.) 130 copies.
3	<i>Akhbar-ul-Akhbár</i> ...	Lucknow	Ditto	Tri-monthly	Novr. 21st, 1877.	137 "
4	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbár</i> ...	Delhi	Ditto	Weekly	" 25th "	120 "
5	<i>Aligarh Institute Gazette</i> ...	Aligarh	Urdú-English	Bi-weekly	" 24th "	343 copies (including 94 copies taken by Govt.) 130 copies.
6	<i>Anjuman-i-Hind</i> .	Lucknow	... Urdú	... Weekly	" 3rd & 24th "	410 copies (including 260 copies taken by Govt.) 100 copies.
7	<i>Anjuman-i-Panjab</i> .	Lahore	Ditto	... Ditto	" 28th "	100 "
8	<i>Anwar-ul-Akhbár</i> ...	Lucknow	Ditto	... Ditto	25th	58 "
9	<i>Benares Akhbár</i> ...	Benares	Hindí	... Ditto	" 22nd & 29th	352 "
10	<i>Dabdab-i-Sikandari</i> ...	Rámpur	Urdú	... Ditto	" 26th	200 "
11	<i>Hindi Pradip</i> ...	Allahabad	Hindi	Monthly	Decr. 1st	125 "
12	<i>Jaipur Akhbár (Rajputana)</i> , <i>Jalwah Túr</i> ...	Jaipur	Urdú	Weekly	Novr. 23rd	142 "
13	<i>Kárnáma</i> ...	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 24th	300 "
14	<i>Kavi Vachan Sudhá</i> ...	Lucknow	Ditto	Ditto	" 26th	300 "
15	<i>Khair Khwah-i-Alam</i> ...	Benares	Hindí-English	Ditto	" 27th	160 "
16		Delhi	Urdú	Ditto	"	"

List of papers examined—(concluded).

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, Weekly, or otherwise.	Date.	Circulation.
17	<i>Khai'r Khwāh-i-Hind</i>	Delhi	Urdu	Weekly	Nov. 24th, 1877.	200 copies.
18	<i>Khai'r Khwāh-i-Panjab</i>	Gujranwālā	Ditto	Bi-monthly	"	500 "
19	<i>Koh-i-Nur</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Bi-weekly	"	495 copies (in- cluding 30 copies taken by Govt.)
20	<i>Lashī-i-Mahfūz</i>	Moradabad	Ditto	Weekly	23rd	85 copies.
21	<i>Lawrence Gazette</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	27th	500 copies (in- cluding 50 copies taken by Govt.)
22	<i>Lytton Gazette</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Bi-monthly	22nd	200 copies.
23	<i>Māhab Akhbār</i>	Indore	Marāthī	Weekly	" 21st & 28th	"
24	<i>Mārvār Gazette</i>	Jodhpur	Hindi-Urdu	Ditto	19th	100 copies.
25	<i>Mashir-i-Qaisar</i>	Lucknow	Urdu	Ditto	25th	300 "
26	<i>Meerut Gazette</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 5th & 26th	80 "
27	<i>Mihir-i-Darakshan</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly	" 21st	400 "
28	<i>Mitrā Bilās</i>	Lahore	Hindi	Weekly	" 26th	200 "
29	<i>Mufid-i-Am</i>	Agra	Urdu	Tri-monthly	" 20th	100 "
30	<i>Mufid-i-Hind</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Weekly	" 24th	125 "
31	<i>Muhib-i-Hind</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 8th & 16th	245 "
32	<i>Mumba-ul-Ahkam</i>	Lucknow	Ditto	Bi-monthly	" 25th	30 "
33	<i>Mutlai-i-Nur</i>	Cawnpore	Ditto	Weekly	" 27th	50 "
34	<i>Najm-ul-Akhbār</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 24th	150 "
35	<i>Nur-i-Afsān</i>	Ludhiana	Ditto	Ditto	" 29th	407 "
36	<i>Nur-ul-Abṣār</i>	Allahabad	Ditto	Bi-monthly	Dec. 1st	305 copies (in- cluding 200 copies taken)

(835)

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